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U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry.

Growing & Handling Western Wool.

1916.



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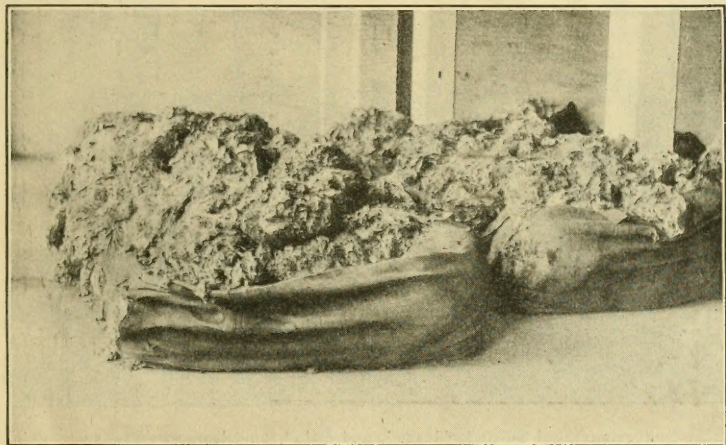
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY.

GROWING AND HANDLING WESTERN WOOLS.

The western sheep raiser must always depend largely upon wool for his income. Only a few of the clips sold at the ranch go direct to the mills. Most of the wool passes through eastern warehouses and is graded before selling to the manufacturer.



American Wool on Display in the Original Bag.

In breeding his sheep and in preparing and selling his wool the ranchman should understand all those things that affect the price in the final sale at the warehouse. Some of these things are explained in the wool-exhibit car equipped by the Bureau of Animal Industry and exhibited in cooperation with the agricultural colleges in the western States. The charts, fleeces, and

NOTE.—This circular is intended for distribution in connection with the wool-exhibit car equipped by the Bureau of Animal Industry and run in cooperation with the western agricultural colleges.

SF376
U 5

Growing and Handling Western Wools

live sheep shown in the car are arranged to show how the value of wool is influenced by—

1. Shrinkage.
2. Grade.
3. Strength.
4. Character.
5. Preparation.

Shrinkage.—All wools are scoured to remove grease and dirt before manufacturing is begun. The loss in weight in



Foreign Wool Skirted, Classed, and Baled, on Display at Boston.

scouring varies from 25 to 80 per cent. A difference of 5 per cent in the shrinkages of two lots of wool, when other things are equal, may mean a difference of 4 cents a pound in the grease. Where it is not possible to have a fair sample of a clip scoured as a test, a person's own judgment of the shrinkage must be depended upon. Only by careful study and experience can the woolgrower learn to estimate closely the shrinkage of wools.

Grade.—There are seven main grades of western wools. On the clean or scoured basis the finest grades of wool often bring

Growing and Handling Western Wools

15 cents a pound more than coarser grades. The published wool market reports quote western wools by grades, on the scoured basis. In order to make use of these reports the wool-grower must know the shrinkage of his clip and how it grades.

The following is the report of the Boston wool market published December 11, 1915:

BOSTON WOOL MARKET.

DOMESTIC WOOL.

OHIO AND PENNSYLVANIA FLEECES.

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----|--------|
| Delaine washed..... | 35½ | to — |
| XX..... | — | to 32½ |
| Fine unmerchantable..... | 32 | to 33 |
| ½ blood, combing..... | 34 | to 35 |
| ¾ blood, combing..... | 37 | to 38 |
| ¼ blood, combing..... | 37 | to — |
| ½, ¾, ¼ clothing..... | 30 | to 33 |
| Delaine, unwashed..... | 31 | to 32 |
| Fine, unwashed..... | 26 | to 27 |
| Common and braid..... | 32 | to — |

MICHIGAN AND NEW YORK FLEECES.

| | | |
|------------------------|-----|--------|
| Fine, unwashed..... | 25 | to — |
| Delaine, unwashed..... | 28 | to 30 |
| ½ blood, unwashed..... | 32 | to 33 |
| ¾ blood, unwashed..... | 37 | to 38 |
| ¼ blood, unwashed..... | 36¼ | to 37½ |
| ½, ¾, ¼ clothing..... | 26 | to 28 |
| Common and braid..... | 31 | to 32 |

WISCONSIN AND MISSOURI.

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|--------|
| ¼ blood..... | 36½ | to 37 |
| ¾ blood..... | 37 | to 37½ |
| ½ blood..... | 31 | to 32 |
| Braid..... | 31 | to 32 |
| Black, burry, seedy, cotts..... | 28 | to 30 |
| Georgia..... | 33 | to 34 |

KENTUCKY AND SIMILAR.

| | | |
|------------------------|----|-------|
| ½ blood, unwashed..... | 35 | to 36 |
| ¾ blood, unwashed..... | 39 | to — |
| ¼ blood, unwashed..... | 38 | to — |
| Common and braid..... | 32 | to 33 |

SCOURED WOOL.

TEXAS.

| | | |
|----------------------|----|-------|
| Fine, 12 months..... | 67 | to 68 |
| Fine, 8 months..... | 60 | to 62 |
| Fine, fall..... | 54 | to 56 |

CALIFORNIA.

| | | |
|----------------------|----|-------|
| Northern..... | 65 | to 66 |
| Middle county..... | 62 | to 63 |
| Southern..... | 55 | to 56 |
| Fall free..... | 51 | to 53 |
| Fall, defective..... | 45 | to 48 |

OREGON.

| | | |
|----------------------------|----|-------|
| Eastern No. 1, staple..... | 72 | to 73 |
| Eastern, clothing..... | 67 | to 69 |
| Valley No. 1..... | 59 | to 62 |
| Valley No. 2..... | 54 | to 56 |
| Valley No. 3..... | 52 | to 53 |

TERRITORY.

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----|-------|
| Fine, staple..... | 73 | to 75 |
| Fine, medium staple..... | 70 | to 72 |
| Fine, clothing..... | 69 | to 71 |
| Fine, medium, clothing..... | 65 | to 68 |
| ¼ blood, combing..... | 71 | to 73 |
| ¾ blood, combing..... | 68 | to 70 |
| ¼ blood, combing..... | 65 | to 66 |
| Common and braid..... | 57 | to 58 |

A fine staple wool quoted at 75 cents (scoured) if it shrank 60 per cent would be worth 30 cents in the grease.

Wools from Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, Colorado, and Washington are included under Territory. The State from which a clip comes has a great deal to do with the

Growing and Handling Western Wools

price, as some of the States are found to average better than others in the yield of clean wool and in the way the sheep are bred and cared for.

Strength.—The strength of the wool depends upon the feeding and care of the sheep and upon the breeding. Tender wools are caused by lack of care and feed, and lower the price by from 2 to 4 cents a pound.

Character.—The character of the wool depends mainly upon the breeding of the sheep and to some extent upon the care and feed. Wools of the best character run from 3 to 4 cents above those of poor character (frowsy, dingy, etc.).

Preparation.—Separate sacks or bales for "blacks," "bucks," lamb's wool, etc., is to the advantage of both seller and buyer. If wool is properly graded when shorn it can be sold without further handling in the warehouse. Bad twine and branding fluid entirely prevents the use of wools for some kinds of goods.

These questions are more fully explained in Department Bulletin No. 206. The department has a limited supply of this bulletin on hand, and it will be sent to persons interested on request, as long as the supply lasts.

JAN. 21, 1908

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